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NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1891.

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PLAIN TALK PUBLISHING CO., 5 BEEKMAN ST., N. Y. CITY.

PLAIN TALK.

VOL. X.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1891.

No. 66.

A PAIR OF PANTALOONS.

MATTIE M. BOTELER.

THE old squire's son was here yesterday, Tommy."

"Who, Joe Markham? I heard that he was back from Europe, dressed like a regular swell. He didn't come to leave his order for a suit, did he, mother?" and Tom laid down his fork, breaking into a hearty laugh.

"He came to see me about a mortgage, he says he's got against us," Mrs. Swartz answered in a trembling voice. "You see we bought this place of squire Markham and when your father died, it wasn't quite paid for. The old squire came to me then and said, 'Don't fret about that mortgage, Margaret; it'll never come up against you.' But I s'pose it slipped his mind."

"It wasn't long after that, 'till old Mrs. Markham died and the old squire never was himself again. Joe says, his father would have took the house from us long ago. If he hadn't been so forgetful. And he says that he ought to put us out right away, but he'll give us six months to pay it off in."

Thus far Tom had remained silent, but at these last words, he sprang up excitedly. The idea of Joe Markham talking of turning them out of their homes! All of the seventeen years of his life had been spent here and it seemed as much a part of him, as did his own hands and feet.

"How much does he want?" he demanded indignantly.

"Nigh onto two hundred dollars," replied Mrs. Swartz, dejectedly. At this, Tom's bravado suddenly deserted him, and his heart sank within him. To this boy, reared in the little back-woods town where the majority of the people were poor and where money was always scarce, two hundred dollars seemed a small fortune.

"I did want you to get one more year's schoolin' to Tommy," Mrs. Swartz went on, "but you'll have to give it up."

"I'll go down and see Mr. Dorsey," Tom began.

"It won't do no good. I stopped at the saw-mill last night, and he says that his two boys, Ezra and Joe will be all the help he'll need this winter. I reckon, though, there'll be right smart of tailorin', an' you'll have to take hold an' help at that. My fingers is stiff an' I can't work like I could when your father and me followed the trade. Then, them that has sewing machines has the upper hand of us. One of 'em can work faster than you an' me together; though the work ain't as lastin', if I do say it that shouldn't."

Again Tom began his excited tramp up and down the room. In his heart, he rebelled against the plan. He would rather do anything, he told himself—cut corn, chop wood or

dig ditches; anything would be preferable to the tiresome cutting and sewing and pressing and sewing again. It had been his father's trade; and Margaret had religiously imparted it to her son. But, though Tom had never expressed his feeling, to the strong, muscular young fellow, the work seemed unmanly.

"We can't raise the two hundred dollars, no way," Margaret spoke huskily, "but we'll have to lay by what we can. It'll be hard times for us, when we're turned out of a home." She had evidently nervously herself for this interview, but for a moment her self-control seemed to forsake her and her face worked painfully.

Back in Vermont more than twenty years ago, Margaret had been married to August Swartz. The handsome young

German had but lately left his fatherland, to find a home in the New World. Though Margaret was New England born and bred, her parents were staunch German people and she inherited the peculiar characteristics of her race. Together they had journeyed westward, settling in a small Indiana town, which bore the name of Crossport. Here they had plied their calling, by thrift and energy adding each year to the sum that was to purchase home and comforts by and by.

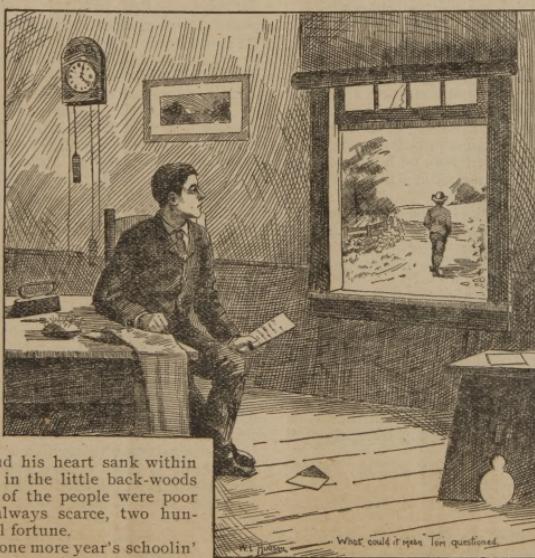
When Tom was six years old, his father had fallen a victim to the fatal swamp-fever. Though bowed with the weight of her grief, Margaret had never, for a moment, given up the struggle; and for a number of years she had succeeded beyond her own expectations. But of late the hardships of early years had begun to tell upon

her. Then, the popularity of "ready-mades" had lately penetrated to the back-woods hamlet, thus greatly diminishing the number of Margaret's patrons.

For a few minutes both relapsed into silence, then Margaret arose and began to clear away the remains of the morning meal, saying briskly:

"I guess, Tommy, you'd better run over to Pete Slicer's an' get the stuff for Job's pantaloons. He's working in a grocery over at Sandrow, an' his mother says that 'ready mades' don't last him no time. She's going over to see him to-morrow, an' I told her we'd have 'em done for her." Tom put on his hat and started for the door, coming back to say with manifestly assumed carelessness.

"I'll go past the school-house and get my books." Then



PLAIN TALK

he shut the door and hurried out, taking the longer road, which lead past the school-house.

It seemed to him that he must be leagues and leagues away from the Tom Swartz, who had gone over this same beaten path, at the opening of school only a week before. Indeed, Tom had entered into his school work this year with an earnestness not characteristic of boys in real life. The past year had been an era in the life of more than one boy in Crossport.

When Mr. Frank Fairford had come down from Detroit, the year before to take the helm of the Crossport school, there had been, on the part of the older boys, a good deal of sneering in regard to "stuck up city chaps." He had proven to be a frank, manly young fellow, alert, cultured and of a genial temperament. Before he had been in Crossport a week, the attitude of the boys toward him had developed into a sort of hero worship.

Though Tom had always manifested a decided penchant for mischief, he was naturally keen-witted and logical and stood easily at the head of his classes. He was a decided favorite among his school-mates in spite of the fact that in Crossport, like most rural communities, a foreigner, and especially a Dutchman, was looked upon with contempt. Though Tom had pretended not to notice the half-joking sneers to which he was sometimes subjected, he had really felt very sore at heart on account of the stigma which he felt rested upon him. It seemed natural that Mr. Fairford should have been the one to dispel this feeling.

He had tarried one evening after school to investigate a difficult problem; as he leaned his curly head upon his hand, sorely perplexed, Mr. Fairford had handed him a book containing something bearing upon the question in hand. The first words had caught and riveted Tom's attention "Prof. Gotlieb Weinderhoff, the eminent mathematician." Tom looked up quickly, a merry twinkle in his blue eyes.

"Why, Mr. Fairford, Prof. Weinderhoff must have been a Dutchman."

"Yes," answered Mr. Fairford, quietly, "our best thinkers come from among the Germans, and you know that those races which have distinguished themselves for their attainments in literature and science are the races of Teutonic extraction." A glow of pleasure came into Tom's face and not only was he, more than ever, in love with his teacher, but the vague ambition, which had sometimes flitted through his brain, took definite shape.

It was the memory of this that had caused him to set his teeth firmly with the resolution to make this year tell through all his future life. But now—now his dream was shattered and, with every step, he seemed to go deeper into the "slough of despond."

Crossport boasted of two school buildings, the one a small frame building, the other a more commodious one of brick, standing along-side of it. Since the building of the brick structure, two teachers had been employed, the frame building being used for the primary school.

Tom found the school-house unlocked and Mr. Fairford seated at his desk writing letters. He looked up to greet Tom cheerily and then went on with his writing. Tom gathered up his books and, pulling his cap over his eyes, started for the door.

"Tom Swartz, what does this mean?" and Mr. Fairford laid down his pen in astonishment.

"It means," said Tom, sullenly, "that I've education enough for a Dutchman."

"Tom!" That was all; but in a minute Tom had laid down his books and was pouring his story into the sympathetic ear of Mr. Fairford.

"And to think, that I had meant to make this the best year of my life!" he said, excitedly. "O Mr. Fairford!" and a boyish tear dropped on Tom's hand, "I did so want to do something really good and useful in the world; but if I'm to put in my life on those endless seams, I can't be expected to do my best."

"This is not like my brave Tom at all" said Mr. Fairford gravely. "You make a mistake in supposing that an education is to be gotten only within the four walls of a school-room. Some of the men who have been most truly great, have not had even your opportunities. And as for doing your best, even though your whole work is to be that of sewing seams, you have no right to do anything less than

your best. The young man who would put careless stitches into a pair of pantaloons, is certainly not to be trusted in the greater affairs of life."

As Tom walked home in the crisp September air, his spirits rose rapidly. He set about the hated task, with an earnestness surprising even to himself.

At four o'clock the work was almost finished, and Margaret went out into the garden while Tom took his sewing and sat by the window. The heat was oppressive and he was tempted to omit the overstitching, for which Margaret's work was famous.

Just then Mr. Fairford's words came ringing through his mind and he took up his work and began the long seam over again.

When he looked up again, Jimmy Crowley was coming up the road, kicking up great clouds of dust as he ran. As he came nearer, he shouted to Tom and waved something in his hand. In a minute he had come inside the gate, and tossing a paper in at the window, scampered away again. For a minute Tom stared blankly at the paper, then he opened it and ran his eyes over the contents, his face growing pale as he did so.

"Mr. Thomas Swartz," it ran, "you are summoned to appear in person before the school board, assembled at John Satterlee's, this Thursday evening, September 15th. Signed Elias Bailey."

What could it mean? Tom questioned. Surely he had been guilty of nothing to merit this. Gradually it dawned upon him that he had been made the victim of some cruel plot. He was well aware that he had several enemies in the school. The note he held in his hand showed plainly the hand of an enemy. He remembered how the year before some boys had been summoned before the School Board and publicly expelled. He had a dim feeling that this would prove the "last straw" to his already over-burdened mother. He could bear it himself, but if he could only shield her!

"I'll take the work over to Mrs. Slicer's and don't be alarmed if I'm not back before dark," Tom said, when at last the pantaloons were pressed and to'ed.

Mrs. Slicer was disposed to be talkative, and detained Tom so long that it was growing dark when he started for deacon Satterlee's. A light rain was falling, and when he entered the porch his clothes were dripping with rain. Mother Satterlee met him at the door, saying heartily:

"Jest go right into the settin' room." Tom's courage was really ebbing fast but he put on a bold front and marched bravely in taking the place to which Mrs. Satterlee motioned him.

As he entered, Mr. Bailey was speaking. He turned his eyes sternly upon Tom as he went on, "As to the allegations in regard to Thomas Swartz, I am fully satisfied, and I move that the sum be fixed thirty-five dollars." Tom's head dropped and he covered his face with his hands. The minister must have taken in the situation, for he arose, saying kindly:

"I think it would be well to explain to Mr. Thomas Swartz that the allegations referred to were as to his fitness for the position of primary teacher in the place of Miss Jones, resigned; furthermore, that he has been tendered the position, at a salary of thirty-five dollars a month."

Tom never knew what answer he made, but as he started for home, Mother Satterlee explained how Miss Jones had resigned, and how Mr. Fairford had told the Board that Tom Swartz would be the very one to take her place.

They all thought you was sort o' youngish, but Mr. Fairford talked 'em over."

An hour later, Margaret drew up the chairs to the neatly-laid table in the warm, bright kitchen, and then bustled into the pantry, returning with an ancient silver tea-urn and a pot of rich, yellow preserves. Tom had just come inside, his face dripping with water and was groping about for the towel. He paused in astonishment.

"Why, mother, you're not looking for company."

"Yes," she answered, demurely, "the new school-master is going to take supper with me."

In the fifteen years that have elapsed since Tom Swartz took the helm at the little frame school-house, Crossport, like most other things, has undergone changes. There is little suggestion of the sleepy hamlet in this brisk manufacturing city, in the very heart of the great natural gas belt. To-day

the streets present a gay appearance. It is the occasion of the first commencement at the splendid university on Brown-ing avenue.

Just now a light carriage leaves the building and is driven rapidly down the street. The young man who holds the reins is Mr. Thomas Swartz, professor of mathematics and languages. The fine looking man who shares the seat with Mr. Swartz, is the Hon. Frank Fairford, governor of one of our growing Western states.

The carriage stops before the little cottage that now peeps, white and glistening from its veil of June roses.

As they linger over their lunch, in the cosey dining-room, Mr. Fairford is saying to the silver-haired woman, who sits behind the tea-urn:

"When I waited in Sandrock yesterday, I met Joe Slicer, and when I told him I was coming here to visit my friend, Tom Swartz, he said:

"I allus said he's amount to something. He made me a pair of pantaloons once an' them stitches stayed there till the goods had clean wore off of 'em." I answered him that I could well believe it, but I said to myself, "that's just like the whole work Tom Swartz has put his life into—not a loose thread nor a dishonest stitch in the whole fabric."

The Phonograph.

IT seems to me that the greatest invention of our age is the phonograph. It almost surpasses wonder to know that words spoken into a machine with their varying expressions are exactly reproduced.

It is not extravagant to assert that the construction of the phonograph, which renders it of such extreme sensibility, permits not only the exact reproduction of the sounds of the human voice, but also their finest shades of inflection.

Its principal parts are a vibrating mica disc, a steel point and a revolving brass cylinder.

Leon Scott's phonograph had, long prior to the invention of the telephone, enabled experimentalists to obtain an exact record of sounds.

Edison's invention of the phonograph did more than that, however, for it took exact records of sounds with the indentations of a steel point instead of those produced by the blurred notches of a feather. Before the January of 1877 closed, Edison had patented his invention of the phonograph, but not until the following July did he make his invention public.

One day in December, 1877, the young inventor walked into the office of the *Scientific American* and placed on the table his machine, then turning the crank, to the amusement of all, it spoke thus: "How do you like the phonograph? I am very well, how are you?" and finally, "I bid you all good night." On December 22d, 1877, a full account of the machine was published.

The original phonograph is easily explained: across the inner orifice of the mouthpiece was stretched a thin mica diaphragm bearing at the centre of the back a small steel point. Immediately behind this was a brass cylinder supported on a screw-thread shaft. At one end was the crank, the turning of which caused the cylinder to revolve, at the same time giving it a horizontal movement.

At the other end was a heavy fly wheel, for the purpose of steadyng as much as possible the motion of the cylinder. The machine's base board has at opposite ends the bearings on which the shaft turned. Before the apparatus was operated a sheet of tin-foil was placed on the cylinder. When words were spoken into the mouthpiece, upon turning the handle, the diaphragm became sensitive to every vibration of the voice. In accordance with these vibration, the steel point impressed the tin-foil on the brass cylinder.—R. W. S.

A Safe Investment.

ATTENTION is called to the announcement elsewhere of the Atlantic-Pacific Railway Tunnel Company. The enterprise is a great one, and is going on to sure success, we believe. It will pay any reader who has a few dollars for investment to write to M. M. Pomeroy, Pulitzer Building, N. Y. City, for a sixteen page pamphlet giving particulars of the enterprise. In doing this, please mention PLAIN TALK.

Winter.

WINTER is here in full glory,
The earth is covered with snow;
The bare trees tell the old story
Silently of joy or woe.

Wayfarers seek the warmth they need
By the burning embers bright,
And thoughtfully do they heed
The lower'ng shadows of night.

—EDGAR DEAN MELVILLE.

The Atlantic-Pacific Railway Tunnel.

REPLYING to a correspondent who writes asking as to the merits and condition of the above-named enterprise we would say that the enterprise is a great one; wisely projected for the greatest good to Colorado, the greatest good to Denver and the greatest benefits in the way of profits to its share owners if they will only push ahead and complete it.

The idea is to go into the mountains at the base, by tunnel, on wheels, instead of climbing up the mountain side, then sinking shafts into the rich veins of gold and silver that form the great mineral belt of the State. This will lessen the expense and add to the profit as the veins will thus be cut horizontally and at great depth. The tunnel is located in the right place for great mineral results, and later on, when it shall be cut clear through, so it can be used for railway purposes, as well as for mining purposes, it will prove an open sesame of a gateway through which Denver and Salt Lake City will have air line railway connection. But its owners need never go clear through the range so far as profits are concerned, as they can bring out millions of dollars worth of gold, silver, copper and lead before they are half way through the 25,200 feet of distance required to open the way through, if they only go right on with their work. This requires money, but the result will prove the wisdom of investing in this direct effort to develop the deep mining and the railway advantages of the State at the same time.—*Mining and Scientific Review.*

How Mozart Composed "Don Juan."

[Who was Mozart? What do you know about him? A handsome book for the best biographical sketch of not over 300 words received from a subscriber before April 1, 1891.]

MOZART was the most absent-minded of men. While he was busy with the composition of "Don Juan" he made a trip to Paris. He took chambers, and sat down immediately to work. After several hours he looked at the clock to find it long past dinner-time. He clapped on his hat with all haste, and half-ran and half-trotted to the Palais Royal. Just as he stepped on the threshold a new idea budded in his mind. He walked in hesitatingly and abstractedly, sat down mechanically, and glanced thoughtlessly at the menu. "A portion of vermicelli soup," he muttered. The soup was brought, but the composer did not stir. Five minutes, ten minutes—a quarter of an hour passed, and the soup grew cold while the music of "Don Juan" took form in Mozart's mind. Finally the waiter removed the soup and asked what next. "Fried sole," was Mozart's answer. The soup was carried off untouched, and shortly the sole was placed before him. Mozart remained still completely absorbed in the thoughts of the composition. Six dishes were served consecutively with intervals of fifteen or twenty minutes, and all were carried away untouched and apparently unseen. Two hours after his entrance into the Palais Royal, a small cup of black coffee was on the table before him. He raised his hand as if to take it, then suddenly his closed fist fell on the saucer, breaking it to flinders, and sending the coffee in every direction. "At last I have it!" he shouted, as he sprang from his chair. Before his untouched dinner he had composed the finale of the third act of "Don Juan."

An Error Corrected.

IN OUR December issue was published an article on "How to make Adjustable Book-Shelves," without giving any credit. The article was written by Mr. A. H. Reed of Paducah, Ky., and we hasten to give him the proper credit for it. Other equally interesting articles may be expected in early issues from the same writer.

HOW TO DO IT.

Original contributions solicited for this page. Send sketches, no matter how rough, with descriptions, and when possible, illustrations will be made.

How to Win in Prize Contests.

I HAVE been asked to give a short article on the uniformity of my success in word building. In the first place I will say my first and foremost object is to gain the first prize it is possible. Secondly, I have been working at word building for about ten years now. The old maxim says "Practice makes perfect." Thirdly, I will take for instance the word "Steam." I then put it in alphabetical order, viz.: *a, e, m, S, t*. Now then for the word building. I start with the letter "a."—A few words will do under each letter. We have, Am, as, at, ate.—In "e" we have, east, eat, em.—In "m," mast, mat, me, meat, met. In "S" Sat, Sea, Seam, Set, Stem. In "t," tame, tea, team, etc. Fourthly, in going through the letters as per example the first time I get acquainted with the letters and have them pretty well memorized. If you wish to be a successful word builder you must place the letters of the contest before you both in mind and sight or success will not follow. I go through the alphabetical order of the letters of the contest three, four and sometimes five times. Without doing this, you will not be properly familiarized with the letters of the base of the contest. Strict attention, close work and your mind centered to the object of which you wish to be successful in, are three essential things to success.

I suppose I have been in a thousand contests. I have been successful in a great many but unsuccessful in a ten fold ratio. In one case I won first prize, there being about five hundred contestants. I had a margin of twenty words over and above second winner. I am now in two big contests of which the first prize is \$1,000, and if they edit the contest as fairly and impartially as *PLAIN TALK's* are edited, I have some hopes of gaining something worth while.

Mrs. McClellan wished to know how old I was. I am past thirty now, but still I wander back to boyish days in working puzzles, word building, etc., for pastime, amusement and instruction, and there are always honors connected with it also.—J. W. Falkner, Freeport, Pa.

Valuable Recipes.

FOR a transparent paste to fix transparent advertisements on glass, use seventy-five parts India rubber dissolved in sixty parts chloroform, then add fifteen parts gum mastic.

To paint iron or steel to protect it from corrosion, first use a printing of oxide of magnesia; afterwards any oxide paint on top of it. Do this properly and it will never corrode even under water.

Walnut Stain for Deal.—One quart of water, one and a half ounces common soda, two and a half ounces Vandyke brown, one-quarter ounce bichromate of potassium. Boil for ten minutes and apply hot or cold.

To Remove Paint.—Eight parts of slackened lime, one part pearlash; add water till mixture is of the consistence of paint. Put it on with an old brush, and sixteen hours after you can scrape off the paint quite easily.

For French Polish for hardwood doors.—1. Shellac, three pounds; wood naptha, three pints. 2. Shellac, two pounds; powdered gum mastic and gum sandarac, one ounce each; copal varnish, one-half pint; spirits of wine, one gallon. Mix and shake cold till dissolved.

To obtain a hard, smooth, glossy surface on wooden panels for decorative purposes, dissolve gun shellac in alcohol, add enough drop ivory to make it thick enough to apply with a brush; put on three or four coats, rub down with rottenstone; when dry wipe off with a woollen rag, then varnish with a first-class thin varnish.

Good Reading at Small Expense.

AN EASY method of procuring plenty of good reading at a nominal expense is that adopted in some Western towns. Each one of the several hundred people subscribes one dollar a year, and selects any book at that price which he desires to own. All the books selected are then placed in

a temporary library, and every subscriber has the privilege of reading each one. At the end of the year the subscribers draw out the books they originally selected, so that the cost for the years reading is practically nothing.

Gold and Silver Fish.

THESE are of the carp family. They abound in the fresh-water ponds, lakes, and rivers of China; nor are they, indeed, at the present time quite uncommon in our own climate, being now naturalized in ponds, and breeding freely in pure waters.

The colors of gold-fish are liable to the greatest variation; some are nearly all gold, mingled with red; some are marked with a fine blue, brown, or bright silver hue; but the usually predominant color is that of a brilliant gold. As an article of food, they are not used; and are only valued for their beauty and gentleness. It is a curious fact in the history of the gold-fish, that it will bear without injury the extremes of heat and cold; as it will live equally well in a tank, in a glass vase, and in a pond in the open air. Instances have been known of gold-fish having been frozen hard and stiff in the water, but yet, upon being gradually thawed, becoming perfectly healthy and well.

The silver-fish differs from the gold-fish only in color, which is similar to silver tissue; it generally has scarlet fins, and is curiously marked in different parts of the body. Both varieties are also subject to variations in the fins, which are occasionally double; and specimens have been seen with triple tails.

GLASSES.

The glasses, or globes, should be moderately large, with wide mouths, and three-fourths filled with water. For two fish, the globe should be at least a foot in diameter; and for three or four fish, sixteen inches. They should be kept in a cool place—never exposed to a burning sun, or the heat of a fire. Too many should never be crowded into one glass. A few twigs should be kept in the globe, for them to rub against, which should be changed once a week.

FEEDING.

Some persons fancy that gold and silver fish need no food. It is true that they will subsist for a long time with nothing but water, when it is pure and frequently changed. They are best pleased with such *jejune* diet as bread or biscuit; but these should be given sparingly, lest, turning sour, they corrupt the water. They will also feed on the aquatic plant called lenna, or duck's weed, and also on small fry. Fine gravel should be strewn at the bottom of the vessel that contains the fish.

DISEASES.

You can easily tell when a fish is falling off in his health by observing him frequently coming up to the surface of the water for air. This shows he has not sufficient power in his gills to extract the air from the water. He also looks dull, and his motions are languid; a hazy or cobwebby appearance likewise seems to envelop his body, and perhaps some of the scales will drop off. When a fish gets into this unhealthy state, he should be immediately removed from the others, who should have fresh water given them several days in succession. The best remedy for diseased fish, which, if not so treated, frequently die for want of spawning. A fish is sometimes saved by being placed in a little artificial dam, made from some running stream in a garden, for two or three days; but their diseases are at all times very difficult to remedy. The best way is to prevent them by the precautionary measures—plenty of room and pure water.

A Book for Young People.

NO newspaper man of the present day is more thoroughly in earnest, more strictly honest, or more heartily opposed to shams and pretenses than Mark M. Pomeroy. Under the title of "Journey of Life" he has written a volume of "Reminiscences and Recollections" which will prove of interest to all, both young and old. It forms one of his "Birch Bark Series," and may be had by addressing *Advance Thought Company*, Room 46, Pulitzer Building, New York.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

EDITED BY

MRS. N. F. PERKINS, 635 PARK AVE., N. Y.

Exchange Column.

Exchange notices of not more than forty words inserted free to subscribers only.

LYDIA SIMMONS, Lecompton, Kansas, has a new rug machine, cost on: dollar, to exchange for best offer.

Mrs. Jennie E. Southworth, East Hickory, Pa., has knit and crocheted lace to exchange for hand painted articles, Saxony wool or knitting silk. Write first.

Edna L. Welch, Webster, Ill., has pretty quilt patterns, "Rug Making" a neat little book, giving directions for several home made rugs to exchange for any useful article.

Mary A. Weston, Amherst, N. H., would like to exchange knit and crocheted lace for anything useful or ornamental.

Mrs. E. A. Beckner, St. Patrick's P. O., St. James' Parish, La., has Spanish moss to exchange for fancy work, will send a nice lot for pair of Calla lilly mats.

Our Cook Book.

WILL not each reader of PLAIN TALK send in her best recipe? Three recipes tried and true from a PLAIN TALK reader in Kansas.

SILVER CAKE.

One and one-half cups of white sugar, one cup of sweet milk, one-half cup of butter, one teaspoonful of cream tartar, one-half teaspoonful of soda, three cups of flour. Whites of six eggs beaten to a stiff froth.

GOLD CAKE.

One and one-half cups of brown sugar, one cup of sweet milk, one-half cup of butter, one teaspoonful of cream tartar, one-half teaspoonful of soda, three cups of flour. Yolks of six eggs well-beaten.

CREAM PUDDING.

Take three eggs and beat yolks and whites separately, three-fourths cup of flour, pinch of salt, one pint of milk. Stir the flour and beaten yolks till smooth, add the milk, then the beaten whites. Bake in a quick oven twenty minutes, serve at once, with any kind of sauce preferred.

LEMON TARTS.

Fill a number of tart shells with puff paste, and bake. Grate the rinds of two lemons, add two cupsful of water, one cupful of sugar, a spoonful of almond flavoring, and boil and thicken with two spoonfuls of corn starch. A small lump of butter improves it for some tastes. Fill the tarts while warm; ice the top.

SMOTHERED FIGS.

Three cups of rich milk, one cupful of sugar; a lump of butter, two well-beaten eggs and two spoonfuls of corn-starch to thicken when the milk boils. Place a layer in a glass dish and spread sliced figs thickly over. Add more cream and another layer of figs; continue till all are used. Ice the top and serve cold.

BEEF OMELET.

One pound of chopped beef, two eggs, three soda crackers, rolled fine, and three or four tablespoonsful of milk. Season to taste with salt, pepper and sage. Make into a roll, cover loosely with a buttered cloth and bake half an hour. Put a little water in the pan before you put it in the oven. It can be eaten either hot or cold.

ROASTED BEEFSTEAK.

Five pounds of round steak, in one piece, an inch and a half in thickness. Make a dressing of one large cup of bread crumbs, one-half cup of chopped suet, half a cup of chopped parsley, one egg well-beaten, season well with pepper and salt. Spread the dressing over one-half of the beef, fold the other half over it and skewer. Place in a dripping pan. If the beef has no fat it will require some larding. Roast before the fire, if possible, for three-quarters of an hour or less, basting often. When done remove from the pan and mix some flour with the boiling fat, stirring for a few minutes and thin with boiling water. May be cooked in the oven.

CHICKEN SALAD.

To one large hen, boiled and chopped fine add three heads of celery minced, half a dozen boiled eggs, one-fourth of a pound of butter; season with mustard, vinegar, pepper, and salt to taste. Melt the butter, and cream it with the yolks of the eggs; add the seasoning and the whites of the eggs chopped fine. Mix thoroughly with the chicken and celery.

ALBERT PUDDING.

Soak one cup of bread crumbs in one cup of hot milk; add one tablespoonful of butter, one cup of sugar, one salt-spoonful of salt, one salt-spoonful of spice. When cool, add three eggs, well beaten. Add two cups of fruit, either chopped apples, raisins, currants, canned peaches or apricots—one, or a mixture of two or more varieties. When using canned fruit drain it from the syrup, and use the latter in making a sauce. Turn into a buttered pudding mould and steam two hours.

JELLY CAKE.

Two eggs, one teacup of sugar, two heaping teacups of flour, sifted, one scant teacup of milk, two spoonfuls of melted butter, one teaspoonful of baking powder. Put all the ingredients into mixing bowl, and stir vigorously for three or four minutes. Bake in four jelly tins in a hot oven for five minutes. Fill with jelly and sift sugar over the top.

Around About the House.

LACE curtains are seldom used now alone as a window treatment, but are combined with some soft-toned light silk, festooned at the top and down the side a little to break the harshness of the plain white color.

There have been a good many important alterations in the styles of furnishing lately. Mirrors have entirely disappeared, and there is lamentation among a good many women thereat. A woman never passes a mirror without looking into it, and the more mirrors the better.

Lace curtains are of the utmost significance in interior decoration. Should the curtains be too long, as is usually the case, and not too expensive, it is better to cut them off, allowing about a quarter of a yard for the hem and shrinking; but when too valuable to cut, the surplus can be left at the bottom and the curtains caught up into fan-shaped plait. To do this, take the lower back corner up to the tassel hook and gather the curtain into plait.

The Papers Say So.

MISS CHARLOTTE M. YOUGE is sixty-seven years old, full of life and vigor and writing her 10st novel.

Miss Mabel Fuller a daughter of Chief Justice Fuller has received a commission from a Chicago firm for a book of fairy tales.

The popular and beloved Princess of Wales celebrated her forty-sixth birthday at Sandringham recently with the usual festivities, which are the great events of the year among the villagers in the surrounding towns, and include a tea to the children of the schools, under the Princess's especial patronage.

Miss Sarah Orne Jewett, the magazine writer, is the daughter of a country doctor. She was born and brought up on the sea coast of Massachusetts, and the impressions of her childhood, obtained by contact with seafaring persons, are the great storehouse from which she draws her stories. She is not exactly a pretty woman, but her manner is most attractive and Boston worships her.

Stray Notes.

THE wealthiest one is the one who is most economical; the poorest, the one who is most miserly.

The change of fashion is the tax that the industry of the poor levies on the vanity of the rich.

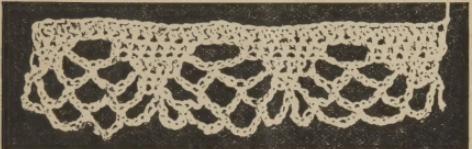
Positiveness is a most absurd foible; if you are in the right it lessens your triumph, if in the wrong it adds shame to your defeat.

Contentment is the only true happiness of life; and a pleasant disposition and good work will make the whole surroundings ring with cheerfulness.

Fancy Work.

CHAIN STITCH EDGE.

MAKE a chain the length required. Turn. First row single crochet into each stitch, turn, second row. Single crochet into each of seven stitches, chain five, miss three stitches, repeat from \ddagger entire length of work, third row, \ddagger five s. c. over seven of previous row, ch. five, s. c. in middle of chain of five, ch. five, repeat from \ddagger . Fourth \ddagger row,

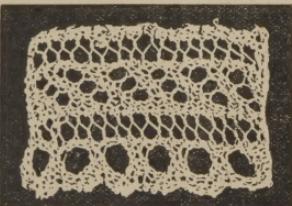


three s. c. over five of previous row, \ddagger ch. five, single crochet in centre of chain of five, repeat from \ddagger twice more and then repeat from \ddagger . Fifth row, single crochet in centre of three single crochet, chain five, single crochet in centre of chain of five, repeat across entire length of work.

JENNIE SOUTHWORTH.

KNIT EYELET LACE.

CAST on fifteen stitches, k. across plain. First row, slip one, knit two, thread over, narrow, thread over, narrow, k. three plain, thread over, narrow, thread over, three times, k. one plain. Second row, slip one, knit one, knit first loop, seam second loop, knit third loop, second plain, thread over narrow, knit five plain, thread over, narrow, k. one plain. Third row, slip one, knit two, thread over, narrow, k. one plain, thread over, narrow, k. two plain, thread

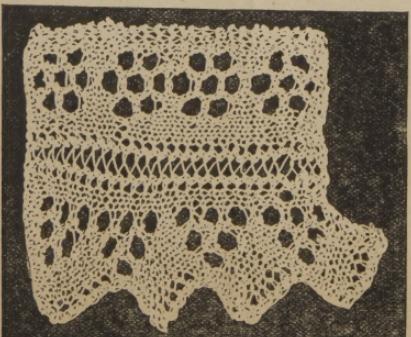


over, narrow, k. five plain. Fourth row, slip one, knit six, thread over, narrow, k. five plain, thread over, narrow, knit one. Fifth row, slip one, k. two, thread over, narrow, k. two, thread over, narrow, k. one, thread over, narrow, k. five. Sixth row, bind off two, knit four, thread over, narrow, knit five, thread over, narrow, k. one.

ALICE STANTON.

GENEVA LACE.

CAST on twenty-six stitches, knit across plain. First row, knit twelve, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. two,



over twice, narrow, k. four, over, narrow. Second row, over,

narrow, k. six, purl one, knit two, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. twelve. Third row, knit four, narrow, over twice, narrow, k. four, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. nine. Fourth row, over, narrow, knit nine, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. six, purl one, k. five. Fifth row, knit two, narrow, over twice, narrow, narrow, over twice, narrow, k. two, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. two, over twice, narrow, k. two, over twice, narrow, k. two, over, narrow, k. three, purl one, k. three. Seventh row, knit four, narrow, over twice, narrow, k. four, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. eleven, over, narrow. Eighth row, over, narrow, k. eleven, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. six, purl one, k. five. Ninth row, knit two, narrow, over twice, narrow, narrow, over twice, narrow, k. two, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. two, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, k. three, over, narrow. Tenth row, over, narrow, k. five, purl one, k. two, purl one, k. two, purl one, k. two, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. four, purl one, k. three, purl one, k. three. Eleventh row, knit four, narrow, over twice, narrow, k. four, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. fourteen, over, narrow. Twelfth row, over, narrow, k. fourteen, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. six, purl one, k. five. Thirteenth row, k. twelve, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. fourteen, over, narrow. Fourteenth row, bind off six, k. nine, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. twelve.

CROCHETED SHOULDER CAPE.



MAKE a chain of one hundred and four stitches. First row, one t. c. in sixth stitch of chain, one t. c. in next stitch, three t. c. in next stitch, one t. c. in next two stitches, miss two stitches, \ddagger one t. c. in next two stitches, three t. c. in next, one t. c. in next two stitches, miss two stitches and repeat from \ddagger to end of chain. Three chain turn. Second row, miss one stitch, one t. c. in next two stitches, five t. c. in next stitch, one t. c. in next two stitches, miss two stitches, \ddagger one t. c. in next three stitches, three t. c. in next or middle of the three, one t. c. in next three stitches and repeat from \ddagger to end. Three chain and turn. Fourth row, miss one stitch, one t. c. in next three stitches, five t. c. in next or middle of the three stitches, \ddagger one t. c. in next three stitches, five t. c. in next or middle of the three, one t. c. in next three stitches and repeat from \ddagger . Continue increasing the number of stitches in each gore till you get a little below the shoulder. Crochet cape as long as desired, forty rows makes a pretty length, finish bottom with four rows of shells of two stitches, two chains and two stitches, sides with two rows, and neck with four. Run narrow ribbon in the open spaces. A medium sized cape required three skeins of two threaded Saxony, one yard and a half of inch wide ribbon for neck, and six yards of half inch ribbon for spaces between gores.

A NEW KIND OF FANCY WORK.

THE squares of Chinese embroidery on satin which can now be purchased so cheaply, can be used in a variety of ways with good effect. A pretty hassock can be made by taking an oblong pillow stuffed with hair and covering it with embroidery. To make an attractive chimney screen fasten a small brass rod across the fire-place. Take the square and line it with some bright-colored silk which harmonizes with the rest of the room. Allow the lining to come over the square and then finish with gold braid. This can then be fastened to the brass rod like a portiere and can easily be pushed aside when a fire is desired.

GAMES AND PASTIMES.

Contributions for this department are solicited in regard to every variety of indoor and outdoor amusement.

The Word Hunt.

ANOTHER enormous pile of letters was received this month from *PLAIN TALK* subscribers who had entered the contest for the type-writer. The lucky ones of last month were pretty near the top this month but only one stepped within the mystic circle. Merit had much to do in deciding this contest. Misses Annie Blackie and Emma L. Hauck being tied for the second and third prizes, the second prize was awarded Miss Blackie, from the fact of receiving from her a list containing fewer errors than Miss Hauck's and, indeed, a neatly written list. The list winning the first prize was one of the neatest ever received. The prizes were awarded as follows:

The type-writer to John W. Stowell, Federalsburg, Md., 293 correct words.

Second prize to Miss Annie Blackie, Bessemer, N. Y., 291 correct words.

Third prize to Miss Emma L. Hauck, White Plaius, N. Y., 291 correct words.

Other lists, given in order of merit, were received from Albert Pennell, Mrs. T. N. McClelland, Roscoe Lane, J. W. Falkner, E. F. Laible, Sarah Hrbek, Austa Northup, Lulu Botham and Lillie Taylor, all having excellent lists, and coming pretty near the winners.

There seems to be a question raised as to whether the words found in the supplement of Webster's dictionary are allowable. They are not, because of so few of the contestants possessing dictionaries containing supplements. Please bear this in mind, also remember to write a legible hand, write only on one side of the paper and place the address together with the base word and the number of words made at the top of the first page. Heretofore some very slovenly arranged lists have been received, and the rules must be followed, even to the exclusion of lists that might win prizes. When the fact is considered that hundreds of lists are received every month, the amount of work entailed is enormous, and considerable labor is saved if a list is received, clearly written or printed, and the rules strictly followed. One list was received bearing no signature whatever. It was examined with the rest and 277 correct words were credited. See the grand prize offered this month.

The New Word Building Contest.

THE contest for the World Type-writer has ended and the result is given elsewhere on this page.

We announce another contest and the word selected is

OBFUSCATION.

Note this particular: Hereafter all prize papers must be sent to GEO. D. THOMAS, 14 High Street, Waltham, Mass., who is to have charge of this contest.

The rules governing the contest are as follows:

1. Only subscribers can compete but any one may send their subscriptions in with their list of words.

2. Proper names will not be allowed, and only words found in the body of Webster's *Unabridged Dictionary*, which will be considered a final authority in deciding all disputed words.

3. Prefixes, suffixes and abbreviations will not be counted, nor will plurals be allowed.

4. Words marked "obsolete" will not be counted, unless they are still current in some one of their meanings.

5. Words of different meaning, but spelled differently, count one word for each spelling.

6. No letter can be used more than once in the same word unless used more than once in the word or words used as a basis of the contest.

7. A list must be written in ink (or on a type-writer) and must be alphabetically arranged, and the words numbered.

8. The full name and address of the contestant must be written at the top of the first sheet, and also the word used as the basis of the contest.

9. The word used as the basis of the contest will be considered in the general neatness of the work will be taken into consideration in awarding the prize.

The first prize will be five of our new Prize Books, and the second prize three from the same list. No third prize will be awarded in this contest.

The contest will close March 10th, 1891, and the result will be announced in the April issue.

PLAİN TALK is one of the finest papers that ever met my eyes," writes an enthusiastic admirer from New Jersey.

New Games of Characters.

A REAL service to the cause of the home as against the saloon and the card table has been rendered by L. J. Colby & Co., 3226 Forest Ave., Chicago, who are the publishers of "New Games of Characters." Six different games are issued as follows:

Game of Bible Characters,	600 Questions,	Price, 75c
Game of American Characters,	600 Questions,	75c
Game of Foreign Characters,	600 Questions,	75c
Game of Cities (100 American and Foreign Cities),	600 Questions,	75c
Game of States (U. S. and Tex.),	600 Questions,	60c
Game of the World,	1000 Questions,	80c

While some of the questions are more or less crude, yet on the whole the games are admirably edited. A large sale should be the reward of the publishers. We heartily recommend them, and assure all *PLAIN TALK* readers that they will be pleased with their investment should they order one or more of the games.

Mrs. Alden, "Pansy," says of them: "They cannot fail to interest and profit the old as well as the young. The students of history, geography, etc., can here find most healthful fun. I wish I could persuade a multitude of families whom I know to find in these games their entertainment rather than in certain other amusements, so called."

Frances E. Willard says of the Games of Characters—"They have been used at Rest Cottage by the studious women there, and thoroughly enjoyed. We do not work at night, but around the evening lamp, from my mother, who is nearly eighty-six years of age, to my youngest secretary, we have profited much by the review furnished in this pleasant fashion involving, as it does, the element of sociability, good fellowship and harmless fun, with the brightening of one's wits, and readjusting of all the facts impressed on one's memory through a lifetime of devotion to books."

Kind Words for "Plain Talk."

EDITOR OF PLAIN TALK.

Dear Sir:—I enjoy your paper very much, and regarding the "Games and Pastimes" department, permit me to say that it is always most interesting to me. PAUL FOSTER.

Derry, N. H.

EDITOR OF PLAIN TALK.

Dear Sir:—I have received a sample copy of *PLAIN TALK*, and I am charmed with its originality and merit. I saw in it a request for those who desired a page of "Pieces to Speak" to signify their wish. I am a High school girl, and as it is often necessary to speak, I should greatly like it. With many well wishes for the success of this entertaining magazine, I remain, yours truly. LULU M. BOTHAM.

Webster, Mass.

Fifteen Cents' Worth of Fun.

THIS is a day of specialties, and W. C. Smith, 18 Court St., Buffalo, N. Y., has about as peculiar and original a line of specialties as one could wish. He makes toys for confectioners, funny trick whistles, wire puzzles, etc. For fifteen cents in stamps he will send any reader who will mention *PLAIN TALK* a full dozen of the toys, no two alike. No end of fun can be had with them. Try a box.

A Novel Contest.

THE Davis Boat and Oar Co., of Detroit, Mich., announce that they will give away on July 1, 1891, a completely equipped steam launch. See their advertisement elsewhere for particulars. Their catalogue for 1891, which is just at hand, is a very fine and complete one, and every person who wishes anything in the boating line should be sure to send for a copy.

A Magic Lantern.

I WOULD like to tell many young people through your columns about the fun they can have over a magic lantern. They can get one cheap, and it would be a profitable thing to have entertainments in the winter.—R. W. B., Putnam, Conn.

I LIKE *PLAIN TALK*; it is full of good thoughts and truths.—B. P. E.

• • PLAIN TALK • •

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Per Annum,

To Foreign Countries, 75 cents per annum.

PLAIN TALK will be stopped at expiration of subscription when the publishers are notified, but, unless so requested it will not be stopped. Subscribers will please note this. We have no desire to force that paper upon its readers, and a simple request to stop will be all that is necessary, but unless this request is received it will be continued.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Per line per insertion, 10 cents; per inch, \$1.00 per column, \$8.00. Space less than one column must be paid at inch rates; less than one inch at line rates. Ten per cent. discount for six months; 20 per cent. for one year. Rates invariable and all advertisements subject to approval.

Entered as second-class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post Office.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1891.

PUSH! Push again. Keep on pushing. Have a positive, definite aim. Try to excel. Strive for the head of your class in school. You may not gain your object, but the ambition is a worthy one and you will be the better for having made the effort.

LOOK for the book announcement elsewhere in this issue. After a considerable amount of trouble we have at last succeeded in making up a list of desirable books, and feel sure that every reader will be glad to take advantage of some of the offers made. A very little effort will be sufficient to add many nice books to your library. If any points are not understood write us for information.

THERE must be leaders in every enterprise. Did you ever witness an old-time firemen's tournament where the members of all the "hose companies" in a state, perhaps, met on the "Fourth" for a running contest? The time for the start is at hand. See that young fellow standing at the "mark," with every nerve alive for the signal. Why doesn't he have hold of the heavy rope like the rest of the runners? Oh, no! the light cord attached to the heavier rope is enough for him to carry. He is the best runner in his town. His it is to lead. He must set the pace for the others and must carry no unnecessary burdens. The signal is given and the runners are off. Without a leader they would have little chance of winning. With a good one ahead, every man will strain every nerve to keep up. The world has need of leaders. Good men and good women are wanted in every direction. Boys! Girls! Be leaders! But look to it that your efforts are in the right direction.

Henry Ward Beecher's Advice.

NO excuse need be given for printing the following letter written by Henry Ward Beecher, in 1878, to his son.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Oct. 18, 1878.

MY DEAR HERBERT.—You are now for the first time really launched into life for yourself. You go from your father's house, and from all family connections, to make your own way in the world. It is a good time to take a new start, to cast out faults of whose evil you have had an experience, and to take on habits the want of which you have found to be so damaging.

1. You must not go into debt. Avoid debt as you would the devil. Make it a fundamental rule: No debt; cash or nothing.

2. Make few promises. Religiously observe even the smallest promise. A man who means to keep his promises cannot afford to make many.

3. Be scrupulously careful in all statements. Accuracy and perfect frankness, no guess work. Either nothing or accurate truth.

4. When working for others sink yourself out of sight, seek their interest. Make yourself necessary to those who employ you, by industry, fidelity and scrupulous integrity. Selfishness is fatal.

5. Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody else expects of you. Demand more of yourself than anybody else expects of you. Keep your personal standard high. Never excuse yourself to yourself. Never pity yourself. Be a hard master to yourself, but lenient to everybody else.

6. Concentrate your force on your own proper business; do not turn off. Be constant, steadfast, persevering.

7. The art of making one's fortune is to spend nothing; in this any intelligent and industrious young man may become rich if he stops all leaks and is not in a hurry. Do not make haste; be patient.

8. Do not speculate or gamble. You go to a land where everybody is excited and strives to make money suddenly, largely and without working for it. They blow soap bubbles. Steady, patient industry is both the safest and surest way. Greediness and haste are two devils that destroy thousands every year.

9. In regard to Mr. B.—, he is a Southern gentleman; he is receiving you as a favor to me; do not let him regret it.

10. I beseech you to correct one fault—severe speech of others; never speak evil of any man, no matter what the facts may be. Hasty fault-finding, and severe speech of absent people, is not honorable, is apt to be unjust and cruel, makes enemies to yourself, and is wicked.

11. You must remember that you go to Mr. B.— not to learn to manage a farm like his. One or two hundred acres, not four thousand, is to be your future homestead; but you can learn the care of cattle, sheep, the culture of wheat, the climate, country, manners and customs, and a hundred things that will be needful.

12. If by integrity, industry and well-earned success you deserve well of your fellow citizens, they may, in years to come, ask you to accept honors. Do not seek them, do not receive them while you are young—wait; but when you are established you may make your father's name known with honor in halls of legislation. Lastly, do not forget your father's and your mother's God. Because you will be largely deprived of church privileges, you need all the more to keep your heart before God. But do not despise small churches and humble preachers. "Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate."

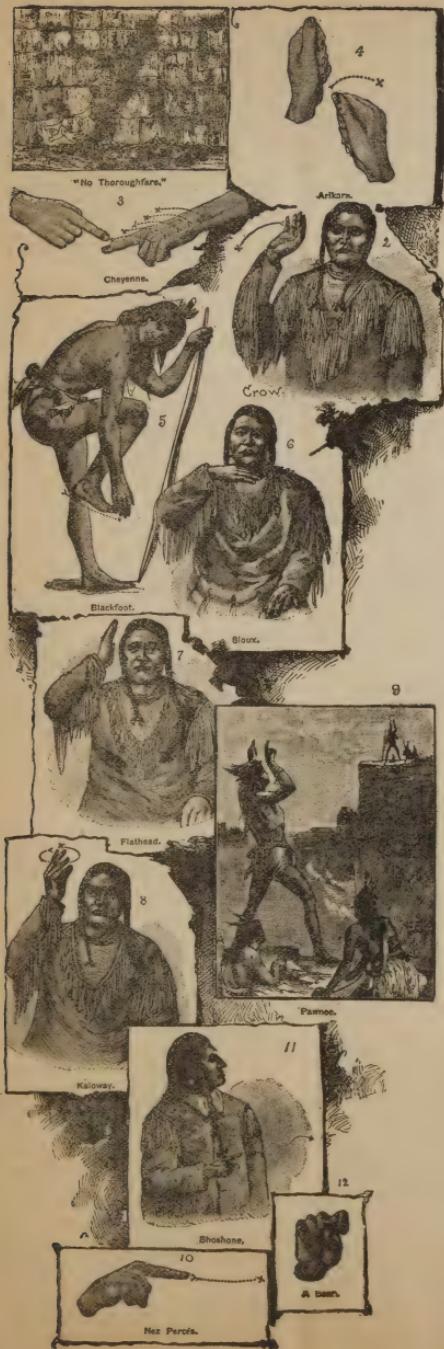
Read often the Proverbs, the precepts and duties enjoined in the New Testament. May your father's God go with you and protect you.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

What Makes A Boy Popular?

WHAT makes a boy popular? Manliness, says Hezekiah Butterworth in *The Ladies' Home Journal*. During the war, how schools and colleges followed popular boys! These young leaders were the many boys whose hearts could be trusted. The boy who respects his mother has leadership in him. The boy who is careful of his sister, is a knight. The boy who will never violate his word, and who will pledge his honor to his own heart and change not, will have the confidence of his fellows. The boy who defends the weak will one day become a hero among the strong. The boy who will never hurt the feelings of any one will one day find himself in the atmosphere of universal sympathy. "I know not 'I,'" once said the great Governor Andrew, "what record of sin may await me in another world; but this I do know: I never yet despised a man because he was poor, because he was ignorant, or because he was black."

Shall I tell you how to become a popular boy? I will. Be too manly and generous and unselfish to seek to be popular; be the soul of honor, and love others better than yourself, and people will give you their hearts and delight to make you happy. That is what makes a boy popular.



THE American Archæological Association.

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10 Coral Street, Worcester, Mass.; G. L. FANCYER, West Whistler, Conn.*

The Sign Language of the American Indians.

UNDER the above title a London publication gives the following interesting particulars regarding the universal language of gesture:

When King Ferdinand of Naples returned to his capital in 1821, he thought it desirable to say a few words to his people. But the boisterous multitude would not allow his voice to be heard, and it seemed as though the King would have to retire in confusion. The monarch, however, was an accomplished pantomimist, and finding he could not reach his people's ears, he set to work to reach their eyes! and then and there he delivered the most remarkable royal speech on record, giving reproaches, threats, admonitions, pardons, and dismissals in sign-language, to the entire satisfaction of the assembled lazzaroni.

The Italians are great in gesture. Wherever there are many dialects, pantomime of some sort becomes indispensable. There is, indeed, a recognized code of signs for the gesture-language of Southern Italy, and in all Italian genre paintings—that is, paintings of home incidents—the traces of this language will be found.

The language of signs is the only universal language, and it is the oldest language. It is by signs that the brutes converse. Monkeys talk with their hands and legs, and even insects talk with their antennæ. The child speaks at first by gesture, though the gesture language is discouraged, and the limbs are put aside for the tongue. But just as we have to converse with a little child by signs, so we have to talk to the insane, who often have no knowledge of words. And signs are still used by the same. When we pray we use our clasped hands as a sign of appeal, or bow the head in sign of reverence or adoration; and when we welcome a friend we clasp hands in token of welcome. In fact, try as we will, we cannot yet dispense with the gesture-language.

At Washington, on March 6th, 1880, seven Ute Indians who were proficient in the sign-language were introduced to seven deaf-mutes, and conversed with them. The experiment was entirely successful. They told each other stories, and the stories were written down and examined, and found to agree in every particular.

As an instance of Indian expressiveness take the foregoing notice of "No thoroughfare" found at Canyon de Chelly, in New Mexico, in 1880. See how clear it is that though a goat might climb the rocky trail a horse would certainly stumble.

The Indians are the best sign-talkers in the world. The multiplicity of their dialects rendered some general means of communication inevitable among them, and though legend assigns the invention of the sign-language of the plains to the Kaiways, we shall not be far wrong in assuming that it is much older than the division of the Indian race into its minor tribes. This language, to which we propose to devote some attention, is curiously complete. By it one Indian can converse with another from Alaska to Panama. It has its general signs, its conversational signs, and its tribal signs. Let us take the general signs first.

As a sign of danger, the right-hand index-finger and thumb are formed into a curve and pointed toward the place in which the danger lies. When it is desired that a man should halt the right hand is raised with the palm in front, and gradually pushed backwards and forwards several times. If a messenger is to be sent to tell him why he is halted the right hand is extended, flat and edgewise, and moved downwards several times. The sign of peace is the palm of the hand held up. The demand, "who are you?" is made by raising the right hand, palm in front, in the air and slowly moving it to the right and left. The demand, "Is it peace," is made by raising both hands grasped in the manner of shaking hands; and the reply, "It is peace," is made in

the same manner, though sometimes only the fore-fingers are interlocked. It is this sign which Marquette mistook for a sign of adoration.

The blanket is often used for signalling. When the Omahas discover buffalo the blanket is held out at length, with the hands as far apart as can be. When it is intended to camp, the blanket is raised aloft on a pole. When a signal is made to approach, the lower edge of the robe or blanket is waved inward to the legs. The signal of the discovery of enemies, game, or anything else is to ride round and round in a circle, passing and repassing each other if there is danger.

A hostile expedition is no haphazard affair. When the Cheyennes or Arapahoes go on the warpath they send off runners announcing the fact to their neighbors. The party is not systematically organized until it is some days away from its headquarters. The pipe-bearers are then appointed, who precede the party while on the march, carrying the pipes, and no one is allowed to cross ahead of these people, or to join the party by riding up before the head of the column, so that the new arrivals fall in from either side or the rear. Upon coming in sight of any high land likely to afford a view of the surrounding country the warriors come to a halt and secrete themselves, while the scouts, who have already been chosen, advance just before daybreak to within a moderate distance of the elevation to ascertain if any of the enemy have preceded them. This is only discovered by carefully watching the summit to see if any objects are in motion; if not, the flight of birds is observed, and if any should alight on the hill it would indicate the absence of anything that might usually scare them away; but should a large bird fly toward the hill-top and make a sudden swerve to either side and disappear, it would indicate the presence of something sufficient to require further examination. If there is anything suspicious the scout grasps his blanket with the right hand and waves it earthward from shoulder height. If the hill is clear the blanket is waved horizontally. If an alarm is to be given the scout runs down the hill in a zigzag manner.

If at any time it becomes necessary to communicate with friends at a distance, smoke-signals or dust-signals are used, so many pillars at different intervals apart signifying certain warnings or encouragements. At night a most remarkable system of signalling by means of arrows of fire is in use. The arrows are wrapped with tow round their heads, the tow is dipped in some resinous matter and lighted, and the blazing messenger is then shot aloft, to be visible over a wide extent of country, and by many to be mistaken for a meteor.

Not only did the Indians tell friends from enemies by distant signalling, but they could tell to what tribe the newcomers belonged. With gradual civilization, most of the war-signals and hunting-signals have become obsolete, but the tribal signs are still kept up, and throughout the continent a redskin's nation is at once shown by the reply he makes to your question. His gesture is, in fact, equivalent to hoisting his ensign or making his number. A few of these tribal signs are here given.

Among the Shoshones and Bannacks the flat right hand, palm outwards to the front and right, is held in front of the right shoulder and waved backwards and forwards so as to represent a flying bird and signify a Crow. The Arikaras, otherwise the Rees or Rickarees, declare themselves by imitating the manner of shelling corn, holding the left hand stationary, the shelling being done with the right. The Assiniboinies, as branch of the Sioux, are recognizable by their making the sign of cutting their throats.

The Bannacks draw the extended index across the throat from the left to the right, and out to nearly at arm's length, making a whistling sound as they do so, beginning on a high note and ending in a lower one. The Blackfeet pass the flat hand over the outer edge of the right foot from the heel to beyond the toe as if brushing off dust, or they merely touch the right foot with the right hand. The Cheyennes pass the right forefinger across the extended forefinger and back of the left hand, as if they were scoring a piece of pork. The Comanches imitate by the waving hand or forefinger the forward crawling motion of the snake. The Crees place the first and second fingers of the right hand in front of the mouth. The Sioux—which is simply the French *voyager* name for the Dakotas—draw the lower edge of the hand across the throat as if cutting it. The Flatheads pat the

right side of the head above the back of the ear with the flat right hand, so as to show the elongation of the head.

(Concluded next issue.)

Librarian's Report.

FOR the month of December I received for the library, clippings from E. J. Rockwood, of Worcester, also seven pamphlets from Mr. A. H. Kingman, of Wakefield, who is one of the oldest and most active collectors in Massachusetts. Mr. Kingman has a fine collection of relics found by himself in Massachusetts, Iowa, North Carolina and Colorado. I am pleased to see that my little lecture in November PLAIN TALK has stirred up some of the members, and I hope that others will send in an account of their private grave yards.

HAVE received a lot of clippings from W. E. Lewis, Esq., of St. Paul, Minn., describing his work on the mounds and earthworks of the Jim River Valley. Prof. Lewis has surveyed and examined nearly 250 mounds in this region this season.

C. A. PERKINS, Librarian.

Archaeological Chatter.

TO arrow-heads are attached many superstitious beliefs. In Scotland they are called Elf-arrows, and it is supposed they drop from the clouds. An old Danish collector living in 1655, named Olaf Warm, speaking of arrow-points and other chipped objects found in Denmark, says that some of the people regarded them as the work of nature. I have met many persons who believe that they "grewed." The peasants of Ireland and Scotland call them Elf-arrows, and believe that sick cattle have been shot with these darts by fairy people. The witch doctor, upon being sent for, manages to find upon the sick animal one or more of these poisonous points, which, with coins are placed in water. This being given to the animal to drink is said to effect a cure. It appears they are never found in searching for them, but are come upon accidentally. A well-known Scotch geographer named Robert Gordon, living about two hundred years ago, mentions an instance related to him by a man and woman of credit, each of whom while riding, found an arrow head in their clothes in this unexpected manner. A certain English lord once produced an "Elf-in-dart," which one of his neighbors took out of the heart of one of his cattle which had died of an unusual disease. Another, and it appears well attested story was that of an old Irish bishop, who was shot at by an evil spirit with an elf-dart, in a terrible noise like thunder, which shook the house in which the priest was.

In Scandinavia prevailed similar beliefs. Flint arrow-heads were supposed to contain virtues not to be found in those of metal.

In Italy were kept arrow-heads in houses to prevent lightning-strokes, believing that lightning struck with a similar stone. They are also carried on the person as a preventive against strokes and a countryman, upon finding one devoutly kneels down, picks it up with his tongue and jealously preserves it as a most potent amulet.

Many of these small implements were mounted in silver or gold and worn as charms, and the finding of an Etruscan necklace of gold to which was appended a flint arrow-head, shows that a belief in their supernatural origin and their consequent extraordinary powers, was of very ancient date. The writer has culled these interesting items from Mr. Evans' great work before mentioned.

The writer owns a curious bust of burned clay grotesque in form, half brute and half human. It was found on the surface near Crawford, Loundes Co., Miss., and presented to the owner by Mr. H. S. Halbert, of that state. On top of its head is a circle; its ears are animal-like. The nose a beautifully turned up pup, and a perforation extends from cheek to cheek. Whether an idol supposed to have mystic powers or part of broken clay vessel the writer is not prepared to say. Circles have had something to do in ancient times with religion, especially so in sun worship and Phallic rites.

The writer had sent him some time ago for examination by Mr. Justin V. Niles, the owner and a member of the A. A. A., an interesting and perhaps unique specimen in the

form of a triangular arrow-head, made by an aborigine from a broken piece of blue glass brought here in the whole by one of the early white settlers. I say unique because I know of no other relic like it. Careful examination of it with a strong glass shows age. The conditions of its discovery, searchingly inquired into by Mr. Niles, proves it to be a true relic of Indian art. Although not a pre-historic object, it is certainly a valuable addition to the archaeological cabinet in which it rests.

Mrs. E. E. Inslee's circular "Indian relics" are "Discoidal Stones;" and were used by the aborigines in a curious gambling game called the "chunked game." My cabinet contains objects of this kind measuring in diameter from one-half inch to five inches. Miss Inslee's implements were used by children who were always taught to imitate the older people. Can't Mrs. Inslee invest one dollar to become a member of the American Archaeological Association?

A. F. B.

Personal Notes.

A interesting descriptive catalogue of Indian relics, fossils, etc., has been issued by J. R. Nissley, Ada, O. It has over fifty illustrations, and should be in the hands of every collector. The price is fifteen cents.

A flourishing historical society has been organized at Wakefield, Mass., and the genial librarian of the A. A. A. is its curator. At the January meeting of the society, he took an active part in the discussions, the topic being the Prehistoric occupation of Wakefield and vicinity.

PHILATELY.

ALVAH DAVISON, - - - - - EDITOR,
176 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

M R. THEODORE C. BACON, late of Middletown, Conn., is now a resident of New York City.

I wonder what has become of the paper issued by J. M. Hubbard, of Lake Village, N. H. Hubbard has been interested in stamps for many years but he seems suddenly to have disappeared entirely.

There are two *Metropolitan Philatelists* now issued from New York City. One is under the auspices of the Board of Managers of the Societies, and the other is issued by Mr. J. W. Scott, and edited by Mr. C. B. Corwin.

To the many collectors who are desirous of obtaining a list of prices paid for different postage stamps, I would state that the J. W. Scott Co. issues one at the price of ten cents. It contains thirty-five pages and gives their buying price of all varieties of postage, both United States and foreign.

The newest thing in stamp papers is Mekel's *Stamp News*, this being a weekly paper and issued in newspaper form. The contents are mostly short news notes from different cities, and the first number gives promise of its being a newsy and welcome sheet.

Beginning with our next number we shall probably give a series of portraits of well-known stamp men. Many thousands read this paper monthly who never see a stamp paper, and these portraits, we think, will be of special interest to them, to say nothing of those interested in the pursuit.

Some years ago a stamp paper named *Philately* was issued in this city, but its appearance was somewhat irregular and a year or more ago dropped from sight entirely. I understand that Mr. D. S. Wyile has bought the good-will (?) etc., and will again send it forth as an exponent of the science. Let us hope that Mr. Wyile will show more staying power than the former publisher.

Should any of the readers of this column at any time come across a stamp which they do not find in the catalogue or which they desire information on, I shall always be glad to hear from them. All readers are at liberty to ask questions on any branch of Philately and they will be promptly answered. The old adage "What you don't know ask about" is as good to-day as it ever was, and the most learned are not averse to doing it.

The writer is engaged to run this column for the special purpose of giving points to collectors whenever possible, and when he hears of a good thing he likes to tell of it. Here is something that is of great importance to dealers, and I charge nothing for the "tip." The circulation of this paper for the next six months will be five to ten thousand copies each month, about two-thirds of each issue being sent to persons interested in stamps and coins. I understand no change will be made in the rates.

The *Stamp Collectors Figaro* with the January number has changed its name to the *Stamp Collector*, and the paper is now under the editorial management of Mr. P. M. Wolsieffer, of Chicago. The appearance of the paper is greatly improved with the new form, and with two men to run the machine we know that the contents will be more varied, and the paper will have a greater claim on the public than heretofore.

There have been and are many publishers in the philatelic line, and it would seem as if everything for which there was the least demand, and in many cases no demand at all, had been published. And yet this is not so, as there is one portion of that field in which for years there has been a really crying need for a publication, and not only that, but this need was often referred to and more often felt. What I refer to is a Mercantile Agency. For decades past the dealers of the country have been swindled time and again, some of the miscreants being so sharp that hundreds of dollars worth were gone before the party or parties were stopped in their careers, and this stoppage was usually only temporary, as they would soon start under a new name, unless the officers had been fortunate enough to lay their hands on them. Dealers have at different times combined in Associations to attempt to abate the evil, but their efforts have availed little.

A firm have now come to the front who have or will make an attempt to start a full fledged mercantile agency for the use of the stamp dealers, and from the stationery which they have had printed it looks as if they meant business. The firm is Scott & Scheble, of Dubuque, Iowa, and they will endeavor to obtain from each collector and dealer the answers to a series of questions, and these will be published in book form for the use of the subscribers to the agency. A man's own rating in business is of little account unless there is personal inspection or something tangible to back it up, such as references which should be looked into. If this firm can get their agency on a solid basis so it will prove of real benefit to the dealers, they will have accomplished something which will be of infinite importance to the pursuit, and which will in the end pay them for their trouble in organizing it. To do it, however, will require lots of hard work and a goodly outlay of cash, and it remains to be seen whether this firm is equal to the occasion.

The J. W. Scott Co., Limited, have just issued a new album which they call their "Best Postage Stamp Album," and as it differs in many essentials from any heretofore issued, it is worthy of extended comment. The illustrations of the various issues are about one-half the size of the spaces, and they are made in outlines, so the eye is not deceived by taking them for the real stamps as they appear in the spaces. The catalogue value of each stamp is given in the space devoted to it, and the album thus combines all the good features of a stamp catalogue, while retaining its identity as an album. In albums heretofore published the different maps of the countries were printed about the same size, without regard to the size or area of the various places, but in the "Best," all maps are drawn to a scale showing the relative size, and at a glance it will be seen that China is only half the size of the United States, while Angola is hardly the size of Florida. This is a very valuable feature, and one which would place the book "way up head" as a desirable album. The spaces for flags, coats of arms, etc., have been retained, and all issues brought up to date. The work appears in various bindings, the prices ranging from one dollar-and-a-half to seven dollars-and-a-half. It is impossible to get an album which will be able to suit all collectors, but the one which I think will suit the greatest number and which combines more desirable qualities than any other, is Mr. Scott's "Best" album. Published by the J. W. Scott Co., Limited, 161 Fulton St., New York.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Contributions to this department are solicited from all readers. Questions will be answered by competent authorities.

Methods in the Art of Taxidermy.

MR. OLIVER DAVIE, whose book on the "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds" is everywhere recognized as a standard authority, has in preparation a new book to be issued under the above title. As soon as five hundred subscribers are received, Mr. Davie will put the book to press. Subscriptions may be forwarded to him direct at Columbus, Ohio. The price is placed at \$5.00, which will be considered cheap when the completeness and elegance of the work is understood. We have been fortunate enough to see advance plates of some of the full-page illustrations. The work is of so much interest that we reproduce the following regarding it:

The drawings for this work were begun more than six years ago, and were made from time to time until the author's ideal for such a work was fully realized. There will be fifty-four full-page plates in all. A fair idea of the minuteness of the illustrations may be obtained by examining the plate illustrating the skinning of a bird, the common Robin being taken as the example. The companion plate, on the mounting, contains fourteen figures showing every procedure in making the artificial body, adjusting the wings, filing the neck-skin, wiring the legs, inserting the artificial body, sewing up the specimen and mounting it on a temporary stand. This is followed by another plate showing the Robin bound in threads and complete. Here on the same plate are figures showing how to obtain accurate running and stepping attitudes of birds, based upon simple anatomical principles.

Plates with figures illustrating all the variations in the skinning of birds are given and a new method of skinning and mounting birds, called the "breast cut" method, is illustrated in two plates of ten figures. Probably the most interesting plate to the taxidermist, as well as to the beginner, will be the one containing four figures, illustrating a new, simple and accurate method of mounting long-necked birds. To those following taxidermy for profit or pleasure, the information imparted in this plate alone will be worth more than the entire cost of the work. There are three plates which thoroughly and beautifully illustrate the best methods of making good bird-skins. Twelve plates figure in the finest style the forms and attitudes of Grebes, Loons, Cormorants, Gulls, Terns, Ducks, Geese, Swans, Herons, Hawks, Owls, Grouse and the smaller perching birds. Four figures in one plate illustrate explicitly the muscular anatomy of Hawks and Owls with an imaginary outline of feathers and the exact position of legs with the artificial muscles in the mounted specimens.

The same detailed correctness is followed in the skinning and mounting of mammals, the Fox Squirrel being taken as the example in the smaller quadrupeds, is represented by six figures on one plate, delineating the procedures of skinning the animal and modeling the head; the companion plate illustrating every stage in the process of mounting. In the larger and short-haired mammals the methods of building the frame-work and modeling in clay are illustrated. For this purpose the Greyhound, Horse and Elephant have been selected, the drawings being made from the actual specimens in the course of preparation. These occupy several plates beginning from the skeleton frame-work to the completed animal. A plate clearly outlining the method of taking the measurements of large animals and other details is given, while two plates figure minutely the methods of mounting fish, bird and animal heads, and two others furnish ideal mounted dog, deer, fox and antelope heads. Two others, mounted setter and pointer dogs, taken from the actual mounted specimens. The illustrations showing the methods of mounting and skinning snakes, reptiles, turtles and fishes are faithfully executed. One entire plate is devoted to skinning and mounting of frogs. Others represent figures showing how to fill with clay the tails of beavers, muskrats, flippers of seals, sea lions, etc., etc.

Ten plates contain accurate attitudes of the quadrupeds. The entire muscular system of quadrupeds is illustrated in two figures, together with three others showing the proper formation and modeling of the head, nostrils and lips of

animals with clay. All the instruments used in taxidermy are illustrated.

The text for this work is simple, clear and concise, conforming and referring to the plates throughout. It consists of the variations in the skinning and mounting of birds; making scientific skins, the best method of softening or relaxing skins; mounting birds with the wings spread; new method of mounting long-necked birds; the manipulation of the dry skins of mammals and all pertaining to the mounting of their skins, fresh or dry; modeling in clay, etc., etc. No theoretical methods or illustrations are offered in the work—simply those that have been obtained by actual experience. Besides the regular text, a concise description will face each plate, which will enable immediate reference when all the details are desired. The design from the beginning has been to make this work superior to anything that has yet appeared in the literature of taxidermy. The quality of the illustrations being of the highest order, delineate everything that has long been desired in the exposition of the art.

How the Sparrows Care for their Sick Friends.

THERE was a mass-meeting of little sparrows in West Thirty-seventh street, near Sixth avenue, yesterday at noon, says the New York *World*. There was a chairman of the group. He didn't have a chair, but he presided over his fellows and what he did they did. There was great chattering and the big birdies gathered together on the curb and flitted to and fro in the greatest excitement. On the sidewalk lay a tiny sparrow. He was on his back, his eyes were closed and he was apparently dead. He was the object of the gathering of his fellows and they pecked at him and trod on him and, on the wing, dashed at him and in every way possibly tumbled him about.

A tender-hearted lady, passing by, rushed up to the feathered tribe and "shooed" them away with her muff and picked up the little one that had apparently been badly battered. While she was stroking him the birdie opened his eyes and turning quickly over on his feet, shook the dust out of his wings, and before his would-be protector could say Jack Robinson flew to the nearest tree-top as if he was an arrow shot out of a bow.

Straightway all the other sparrows that had been gazing on the branches of a neighboring tree upon what was going on between the lady and their fellow-birdie, flew towards the little one and then in a grand chirping group they all flew off together. The lady didn't know what to make of it until birdman smiled when he heard the story. "My dear madam," said he, "what those sparrows don't know there's no use learning. So you thought they were trying to kill their little companion. Not a bit of it. He had become benumbed by the cold, and probably was stunned a little by a fall. When the policemen find a man benumbed by the cold they club the soles of his feet to circulate his blood and bring him to. That's what those birds were doing. It's a winter custom of theirs. Warming their little friend into life by their peckings and roughing and tumbling him about." Evidently "birds of a feather flock together" like human beings to save a fellow in trouble.

A Book on Geology for Beginners.

First Book of GEOLOGY, by N. S. Shaler, Professor of Paleontology, Harvard University; 272 pages, with 120 figures in the text; \$1.10 by mail; D. C. Heath & Co., Boston.

THIS book is intended to give the student of from ten to fifteen years of age a few clear, well-selected facts that may serve as a key to the knowledge of the earth. The number of facts dealt with is far less than is usually given in such, but pains have evidently been taken in their presentation to make them open the way to the very broadest veins that the science affords. The book is clearly illustrated throughout.

WE HAVE often written in praise of Frank H. Lattin, the enterprising natural history dealer of Albion, N. Y., and the receipt of his new catalogue puts us in mind of him once more. We have had more or less extensive transactions with him for years, and know that he is a good man to pin one's faith to. He can be depended on.

Sarah and Jacob.

A BOOK recently issued in England, called "Home Life on an Ostrich Farm," by Mrs. Martin, is filled with many anecdotes of life in South Africa. Mrs. Martin tells this story of Sarah, one of the pets on the farm, a female baboon, which had been tame from infancy: "She dearly loved sweets, which were often given to her wrapped up in a multitude of papers, one inside the other. It was amusing to watch the patient and deliberate manner in which she would unfold each paper in turn, taking the greatest care never to tear one, and proceeding with all the caution of a good Mohammedan fearful of inadvertently injuring a portion of the Koran. This time, instead of the expected tit-bit, a dead night-adder was wrapped up and presented. When she unfolded the innermost paper, and the snake slipped out, with a horrid writhing across her hand, Sarah quietly sank backwards and fainted away, her lips turning perfectly white. By dint of throwing water over her, chafing her hands, and bathing her lips with brandy, she was revived from her swoon, though not without some difficulty." Another pet was Jacob, a mere than usually comical and greedy secretary-bird: "He was like a boa-constrictor in his capacity for 'putting himself outside' the animals on which he fed—lizards, rats, toads, frogs, fat juicy locusts, young chickens, alas! and some of the smaller pets if left inadvertently within his reach, even little kittens—all went down whole. The last-named animals were his favorite delicacy, and he was fortunate enough to get plenty of them. His enormous appetite, and our difficulty in satisfying it, were well-known in the neighborhood, and the owners of several prolific cats, instead of drowning the superfluous progeny, bestowed them on us as offerings to Jacob. They were killed and given to him at the rate of one a day. Once, however, by an unlucky accident, one of them got into his clutches without the preliminary knock on the head, and the old barbarian swallowed it alive. For some minutes we could hear the poor thing mewing piteously in Jacob's interior, while he stood there listening and looking all round in a puzzled manner, to see where the noise came from. He evidently thought there was another kitten somewhere, and seemed much disappointed at not finding it."

How the Dog got Home.

YOU know how much I rush about in hansom cabs, and Scotti, my collie dog, always goes with me. We travel many miles in a week together in this way, but, on one occasion, I was walking and missed him.

Search was in vain. The crowd was great, traffic drowned the sound of my whistle; and after waiting awhile, and looking elsewhere, I returned to my suburban home without my companion, and sorrowful, yet hoping that he might find his way back.

In about two hours after my arrival a hansom cab drove up to the door and out jumped Scotti. The cabman rang for his fare, and thinking he had somehow captured the runaway, I inquired how and where he found him.

"O sir," said the cabby, "I didn't hail him at all. He hailed me. I was standing close by St. James' Church a-looking out for a fare, when in jumps the dog. 'Like his impudence,' says I. So I shouts through the window; but he wouldn't stir. So I gets down and tries to pull him out, and shows him my whip; but he sits still and barks, as much as to say, 'Go on old man.' As I seizes him by the collar, I reads his name and address.

"All right, my fine gentleman," says I, "I'll drive you where you're a-wanted, I dare say." So I shut the door, and my gentleman settles himself with his head jest a-looking out, and I drives on till I stops at this here gate, when out jumps my passenger, a-clearing the door, and walks in as calm as though he'd been a reg'lar fare."—*Herald and Presbyterian*.

A Book for Every Young Naturalist.

TENANTS OF AN OLD FARM: Leaves from the Note-Book of a Naturalist: by Henry C. McCook, D.D.; illustrated from Nature; Fords, Howard & Hulbert, 30 Lafayette Place, New York; cloth, \$1.50.

WE will venture to say that the Colorado beetle, the apple-worm, moths, bumble-bees, caterpillars, ants, and spiders, were never before made so picturesque, never so

idealized. The author likes them, humanizes them, lives among them, finds an inner meaning in their little lives, makes in every way the most of them. Housekeepers will surely be amused and probably surprised by learning just how moths go to work, and the chapters on crickets and katy-dids are very fresh and animated; the same is true of the bumble-bees and spiders; and what is not really new is put in new shape.—*Boston Literary World*.

The Life and Correspondence of Louis Agassiz.

BY ALL means the most satisfactory biography of that eminent naturalist, Louis Agassiz, is the one published in two volumes, under the above title, by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston and New York, and edited by Elizabeth Cary Agassiz. While it is not a critical and scientific biography, yet it is a full and satisfactory one, and one which no lover of the great man can afford to have missing from his bookshelves. Both volumes are handsomely illustrated.

For Every Student of Ornithology.

NESTS AND EGGS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS: by Oliver Davie; with an introduction by Parker Morris and illustrations by Jasper and Emerson; Hanna & Adair, Columbus, O.; paper, \$1.25; extra cloth, \$1.75.

THIS book, which has now become the standard work on the subject, and indispensable to those engaged in the studies of ornithology and oology, is descriptive of the nests and eggs and characteristic habits of the Land and Water birds of North America. This includes the species that occur or are indigenous north of the Southern United States boundary, including Greenland and the peninsula of Lower California. The arrangement of the work is according to the nomenclature of the A. O. U. Code and Check List. The common and scientific names are given: concise outline habitats of each species and their breeding ranges are designated. The time of nesting, the composition of the nests, exact number of eggs laid by each species and their sizes by actual measurements are given. All curious freaks in the nesting habits of birds are noted in this octavo volume of 475 pages making the biographies of intense interest and at the same time absolutely correct. If a bird is known by more than one common name these are to be found in the text of each species and a complete analytical Index is given at the close of the work.

Guides for Science Teaching.

THE Boston Society of Natural History, through Messrs. D. C. Heath & Co., publish a series of small guides for science teaching which will be found of much value to student as well as teacher. The price differs according to the size of the book, but will be found noted in the following list. We would advise every reader of PLAIN TALK to send for such of these little manuals as apply to branches of study in which they are interested. The following is the list.

1. ABOUT PEBBLES, by Prof. Alpheus Hyatt of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; 10 cents.
2. CONCERNING A FEW COMMON PLANTS, by Prof. George Goodale of Harvard University; 15 cents.
3. COMMERCIAL AND OTHER SPONGES, by Prof. Hyatt; 20 cents.
4. A FIRST LESSON IN NATURAL HISTORY, by Mrs. Elizabeth Agassiz; 20 cents.
5. COMMON HYDROIDS, CORALS AND ECHINODERMS, by Prof. Hyatt; 20 cents.
6. THE OYSTER, CLAM, AND OTHER COMMON MOLLUSKS, by Prof. Hyatt; 25 cents.
7. WORMS AND CRUSTACEA, by Prof. Hyatt; 25 cents.
8. INSECTS—THE GRASSHOPPER, by Prof. Hyatt.
9. FISHES AND FROGS—YELLOW PERCH, COMMON FROG AND TOAD, by Prof. Hyatt.
10. REPTILES AND BIRDS—ALLIGATORS AND TURTLES, AND PIGEON, by Prof. Hyatt.
11. MAMMALS—DOMESTIC RAT, by Prof. Hyatt.
12. COMMON MINERALS AND ROCKS, by Prof. W. O. Crosby of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; 40 cents.
13. FIRST LESSONS ON MINERALS, by Mrs. Ellen H. Richards, Instructor in Mineralogy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; 10 cents.
14. HINTS FOR TEACHERS OF PHYSIOLOGY, by H. P. Bowditch, M. D., of the Harvard Medical School; 20 cents.
15. THIRTY-SIX OBSERVATION LESSONS ON COMMON MINERALS, by Henry L. Clapp of the George Putnam School, Boston; 30 cents. (A SCHOLARS' NOTE-BOOK, is prepared to accompany No. 15; 10 cents.

PUZZLEDOM

CONDUCTED BY "FISCO."

Address all communications pertaining to this Department to EDGAR D. MELVILLE, Puzzle Editor PLAIN TALK
924 Upland Street, Chester, Pa.

New Puzzles.

No. 6.

ANAGRAM.

The pounds below—are frozen oh!
And even the great lakes.
And all about—we hear the shout!

? ON LAKE 'ICHIGI'!

The boys and girls—now free from
toils
Are bent on having sport.

With laughter ringing—voices sing-
ing

? ON LAKE 'ICHIGI'!

With naught of sadness—to mar their
gladness

Speed on fair youth.
Oh hear the echo on every side—from
far and wide

? ON LAKE 'ICHIGI'!

"INCOGNITO."

"Incognito" offers ten cents for the
first solution to the above puzzle. All
answers must be sent to the editor of this
department.

No. 7.

DIAMOND.

1. A letter.
2. Portion.
3. To conceal.
4. A number.
5. A letter.

"FISCO."

No. 8.

SQUARE.

1. One of PLAIN TALK's puzzlers.
2. A tree.
3. Some foreign coins.
4. Open.
5. Abodes.

"DON."

No. 9.

HALF-SQUARE.

1. A worthless woman.
2. Solicit.
3. Incite.
4. Abbreviation.
5. A letter.

"MALANTHON."

No. 10.

PI.

Otn ni niva eht sedancit kebsno,
Wadroi, dofrawi, etl su garen;
Tel het lepsope nisr frerovo
Wnod hte grining overgos fo ehgnca.
Sonnyten.

"NEMO."

No. 11.

NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

The whole, composed of nineteen
letters, is what I am interested in.

- 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 is sincere.
- 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 is reasons.
- 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 is to embarrass.
- 17, 18 and 19 is a Portuguese title.

"MALANTHON."

No. 12.

CHARADE.

The holidays are o'er at last,
To some too slow, to others fast.
But to all we hope some joy has
brought.
Some ONE resolve that love has
wrought.
And so we hope the ALL shall be,

To our readers and the community,
A TWO of greater prosperity,
Closer friendship and unity.

"INCOGNITO."

No. 13.

DIAMOND.

1. A letter.
2. A short sleep.
3. Furiously.
4. A fold or plait.
5. A letter.

"FISCO."

No. 14.

SQUARE.

1. To perform.
2. Mother-of-pearl.
3. One who performs.
4. To traverse.
5. Concise.

"E. L. H."

No. 15.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

(Six letter words.)

1. An academy.
2. A city of New York.
3. A dish.
4. To regard.
5. Plunders.
6. A heroic poem.
7. Irritable.

Primals.—A young hare.

Finals.—A kind of wine.

"DON."

Prize Contest.

To the subscriber answering the largest
number of puzzles appearing in the
issues of January, February and March,
answers to be received until April 10,
1891, a prize of a handsome book will be
given; a second prize of another book
will also be given.

FROM MRS. McCLELLAND.

MR. E. D. MELVILLE:—Your favor of
the 17th, is at hand. I want to thank
PLAIN TALK for the nice prize. I feel
very much complimented by your request
for a brief history of my life. It has
been so modest and uneventful I feel it
will not interest readers of PLAIN TALK
much. I have always been fond of solving
puzzles but never tried to solve any
for a prize until a few years ago I com-
menced working them in the columns of
Farm and Home. I was so fortunate as
to secure some prizes and seeing the nice
offers you made I was encouraged to try
for some of yours also. PLAIN TALK has
treated me very kindly and I thank you
for both the pleasure and the profit. I
was born near Lexington, Kentucky, and
have spent most of my life near and in
that city. Since my marriage to Mr.
McClelland, who is a merchant here, I
have lived in the city. My maiden name
was Mary M. Marrs. I was raised a
country girl and loved nothing more
than to roam the woods and fields. Since
I have grown older, stouter and more se-
date I like the city better and enjoy
working puzzles better than climbing
fences. Yours very sincerely,

MARY M. McCLELLAND.

Palaver.

The only answers whatever that were
received to puzzles that appeared in the
December number was an incomplete
list from "Incognito."

The five words square in this issue by
E. L. H. is the young lady's first attempt
in the composing line. She is a brilliant
solver. Her autobiography will appear
in the next issue.

We desire to extend our thanks to
"Don" for a batch of good contributions.
By the way, "Don" is a new arrival
and we sincerely hope he will stay.
"The more the merrier." We extend
our Canadian friend a hearty welcome.

"Perplexities" in the Christmas num-
ber of *The Youth's Guide* was brimful
of puzzleistic affairs. Under the able man-
agement of "Nemo" the department
will most undoubtedly meet with success.

Quite recently the editor of this de-
partment wrote several articles in regard
to the formation of a National Puzzlers'
Association, requesting those who would
be willing to join to send their names.
A number of replies were received from
puzzlers who signified their intention of
joining. A few when writing stated that
they thought such an association existed.
As we have written before, if such is the
case the organization must have sunk
into a state of oblivion, for we have
never, during the entire time of our
career, previous to writing articles in re-
gards to a proposed association, heard of
it. Can any one inform us who the
Secretary is and where he resides? We
would be very thankful to the informer.

What Mr. Norton Says.

DEAR READER:—Having read Mr.
Moorehead's experience plating with
gold, silver and nickel, I feel it my duty
to inform others of my success. I sent
a Plater and have more work than I
can do. It is surprising the spoons,
castors and jewelry that people want
plated. The first week I cleared \$37.10,
and in three weeks \$119.85, and my wife
has made about as I have. By addressing
W. H. Griffith & Co., Zanesville,
Ohio, you can get circulars. A Plater
only costs \$3. You can learn to use it
in an hour. Can plate large or small
articles, and can make money anywhere.
I now have a nice home and bank ac-
count, all the product of \$3. invested in
a Plater.—S. S. NORTON.

AMATEUR PRESS NOTES.

Conducted by "AN OLD BOY."

A large amount of interesting matter to
amateurs is crowded out this month, but will
be contained in the March number. Look out for it.

CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

This Department is established in response to numerous
requests from our readers. We hope it will be of
use to it, remembering the following rules: FIRST—Brevity.
SECOND—Clearness of statement. THIRD—Decisive
knowledge of what is wanted. FOURTH—The desirability
of covering the subject matter in a manner that will be
of interest to others as well as themselves. All questions
will be given attention as early as possible, although in
some cases more or less delay may be necessary.

ELECTRIC FITTINGS.

J. L. E., Newport.—You can get a catalogue
of tools, electric fittings, parts of models, etc.,
etc., by writing to Goodnow & Wrightman, 63 Sud-
bury St., Boston. The firm is a good one.
B. F. Evans of Madison, Wis., who advertises
a book on Experimental Electricity in another
column is prepared, we believe, to furnish
supplies in the electrical line.

AGE IN CONTESTS.

Emma L. Hauck, seems anxious to ascertain
the age of J. W. Falkner, who has been suc-

BETTER THAN ANY SAVINGS BANK.

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5 " " 30, " 2.50 "
6 " " 36, " 3.00 "
7 " " 42, " 3.50 "
8 " " 48, " 4.00 "
9 " " 54, " 4.50 "
10 " " 60, " 5.00 "
11 " " 66, " 5.50 "
12 " " 72, " 6.00 "
13 " " 78, " 6.50 "
14 " " 84, " 7.00 "
15 " " 90, " 7.50 "
16 " " 96, " 8.00 "

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